

Announcement Letter December 2018

Dear Brethren:

As we approach winter and the darkest part of the year here in our Northern Hemisphere, we could be envious of our brethren who live near the equator, or those nearing their summertime in South Africa and Australia. But instead we will be thankful for all of our continual blessings from God, and "make our own sunshine" with the Holy Spirit to infuse our minds with optimism and deep appreciation. All of you are part of our reason for being so thankful, and we greet you again with heartfelt prayers for your health and well-being in God's merciful care.

It is finally time to talk more directly about a project that many of you know about informally, but that has never been "certified" publicly before now. That project is the publication of a book. God helping us, that book is going to become a reality, and perhaps even before the next Feast of Tabernacles in 2019. The book will be entitled, *A Peculiar Treasure: The Enduring Legacy of Herbert & Loma Armstrong*.

If you read the *Monthly Letters*, you have already read most of the content of that work over the last ten years. It was eight years ago that the idea was first conceived to write a professionally-produced volume that would tell "our version" of what happened to God's Church in the twentieth century. We already have tons of material that tell that story, in articles, booklets, historical *Monthly Letters*, and thousands of sermons produced over the last forty years. This material is available on our website at www.cogeternal.org, and many of you have used that material to learn the truth of what happened to the work of Herbert Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God. Perhaps all of that is enough. Why take on some bold new project?

Other writers in our apostate parent organization and many splinter groups have written "slick books" to give their take on what happened, and the very fact that they were packaged well gained them some attention. That fact spurred the notion, "Wouldn't it be something if one of those 'slick books' actually told *the truth* about what happened, rather than a bunch of fairy tales?" Then came the remembrance of how Mr. Armstrong used his book, *Mystery of the Ages*, as a means to "package" the truth of God's Master Plan in one "slick volume." There was nothing new in *Mystery of the Ages*. It was literally a repackaging of the *very same truths* that had been documented by the church for decades. And yet, that particular volume, published in 1985, provided something that attracted many

new converts to God's Truth. A number of you are ones that were first exposed to the Truth by picking up that particular book.

Therefore, about eight years ago, the idea for producing our own "slick book" came to mind. Why not? We are not talking about going out and doing some "new Work" to the world. Our mission is still, as always, to the lost sheep of the House of Israel—the ones who became scattered and confused in the wake of doctrinal perversion and the destruction of the physical organization of God's people in our parent body. Why not create a professionally-produced volume "equal" to the others—one that actually *tells the truth* about Mr. Armstrong's ministry and the reasons for its ultimate destruction? Wouldn't that be something?

But who has time to write a book like that? If it could ever be accomplished, it would have to be a patient, long-term project, drafted one chapter at a time. Then, why not use assigned *Monthly Letters* during each year as a vehicle to produce material for this new book? So with those thoughts, some time in 2010, the majority of this writer's *Monthly Letter* assignments became focused upon telling that story.

Recently, we finally sat down to organize all of the material written so far, and tried to finalize a Table of Contents to see what we have, and what is still missing from that story. At this juncture, the book is slated to have twenty-one chapters, and twenty are finished. You will get that missing chapter, God willing, in the February 2019 *Monthly Letter*. After all of these years, the finish line is now in sight. And the finished product could well become a powerful tool to bring *fresh attention to the faith once delivered*. Time will tell.

The purpose of this remnant body is to *freely disseminate* the Truth for the benefit of God's called children. We want to feed those sheep whom God sends to us. Taking advantage of digital technology, we can economically make even large written works available for those who can access the Internet, or who can use electronic readers. The plan is to develop an Internet web page devoted to the new book, and to make it free to read online or to download. On this same new web page, for anyone who would like a nice hardcover version of the book, they will be able to order that for a price similar to our own cost in producing it. The hardcover version is not a "must have." It is only a "nice to have" item, and that is why we will recover our cost for providing it in that format. The material is free in other forms, so this should be a way to make it possible for us to produce a very professional volume and to be able to afford to do it. If any of you are thinking that we should never, ever "sell" literature, then the only option is not to produce a nice hardcover book at all. But it is likely that the hardcover version is the one

that will bring *more attention* to "our take" on church history, so it seems an investment worth making.

Church of God, The Eternal will be the official publisher of this new copyrighted work. When it is ready to go to press, we will be working with a selected book printer to do the work, and also prepare the new web page to come online at the same time. The plan is to distribute one of the nice hardcover books as a registration gift to each of our members at the Feast of Tabernacles in Townsend, TN, and Yachats, OR (one copy per family).

So those are the plans that are *in the works* right now. Please pray that God will guide us to make the right decisions in every aspect of this project, and most importantly, to continue to be able to serve all of you around the globe, and all of those that He will choose to send to us next in order to sustain this fledgling remnant group into the future.

Deaths

We are saddened to announce the death of Mr. Gary Arnebeck of Turlock, California, on Friday, November 30, of stroke-related complications. Gary was seventy-five years of age at the time of his death and was a much-loved deacon, and long-time member. He will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to his wife, Elaine, and his children and extended family.

Also, from Mr-s. Jérémie Litzler of Tournon-sur-Rhône, France: We had chosen the first name Matthias because it means "Gift of God." His second name, David, was chosen in memory of David Brandenburg, who was our mentor, the one who married us, and remains a wonderful example to us.

Some knew Matthias, nicknamed "Button" from the story "Bedtime for Button," before his birth. Matthias manifested himself to us in July. Jérémie could hear his little heart, beating a normal steady pace. And often, just after having put his ear to Aurelie's belly, Matthias wouldn't wait long to send one or two firm foot or knee kicks, saying: "Yes, I'm here!" Even when we were apart during the refurbishing of the house in August, Jérémie's voice alone would trigger a series of waves on top of Aurélie's belly. The voices of Léyla and Alyssia also made Matthias react. The former would exclaim: "Oh Button!" Of course, music, present every day in the house, played by his sisters or his mother, helped him experience a variety of senses. His long fingers make us think he would have played well at the piano.

Matthias died on a Sabbath day, November 3, and was born November 6. Despite the pain and sorrow before and after birth, God has helped us tremendously. He also gives us the hope that Matthias will be resurrected after the Millennium. He will be called, and he will be taught the Way of Life from the Family of God.

Thank you all for your prayers and support in this difficult time.

New Moon

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), begins Saturday evening, December 8. The new moon day is Sunday, December 9.

Office

Contribution Statements: The cutoff date for 2018 tithes will be December 31, 2018. All 2018 tithes must be postmarked by this date in order to be included in your 2018 contribution statement.

Foreign Checks: Also, some have asked why the foreign checks seem to take so long to be deposited. Because of the bank processing time, our bookkeeper, Kari McIrvin, can only deposit foreign checks up until the third Monday of each month. After that she must hold them till the following month. If you are concerned about when your check will be deposited, make sure your checks reach the office before the third Monday of each month. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

December 8..... Luzon, Philippines

December 15..... Mindanao, Philippines

December 22..... Gladstone, Queensland, Australia

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSP-RC 1-7	11-15-18	12-01-18	What Is True Christian Character? #7
WSE-JWB 222-2	11-15-18	12-08-18	Is Seeing Believing? #2
WSP-RC 1-8	11-15-18	12-15-18	What Is True Christian Character? #8
WSE-JWB 222-3	12-06-18	12-22-18	Is Seeing Believing? #3
WSP-RC 1-9	12-06-18	12-29-18	What Is True Christian Character? #9
WSE-JWB 222-4	12-06-18	01-05-19	Is Seeing Believing? #4
WSE-JWB 222-5	12-27-18	01-12-18	Is Seeing Believing? #5

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby